

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
I. McVEY, et al.

Serial No.: 10/047,317

Filed: January 14, 2002

For: **HIGH CAPACITY FLASH
VAPOR GENERATION SYSTEMS**

Attorney Docket No.:
MEDZ 2 01221 US

Examiner:

Art Unit:

Confirmation:

Cleveland, OH 44114
May 21, 2003

37 CFR 1.97(b)(4) & (c)(1)
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The applicants have recently received an April 30, 2003 International Preliminary Examination Report from the European Patent Office in connection with a corresponding PCT patent application. The IPER cited a new reference, EP0 336 047. The applicants enclose a copy of the cited reference, an appropriate form PTO-1449, and an English-language abstract. An early indication that the cited reference has been considered is requested.

In the reference, peracetic acid or other liquid sterilant 21 is heated 19 to create a vapor which is entrained directly in compressed air from a compressed air cylinder 1 (FIGURE 1) or drawn into a venturi 32 (FIGURE 2) to entrain the vapor in the compressed air. The compressed air is discharged through an inlet port 7 into a sterilization chamber 6 which has a vacuum port 8. In FIGURE 1, the vapor passes through a condenser 10 and a filter 39. Tubing 4 is an aeration line. In FIGURE 2, the vapor passes through a sensor 41 and a filter 39. When the peracetic acid has decomposed sufficient to acetic acid, valves 34 and 44 are closed and valves 36 and 18 are opened to use the compressed gas to expedite expelling the waste liquid from the chamber 31.

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37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) Statement

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

An early allowance of all claims is requested.

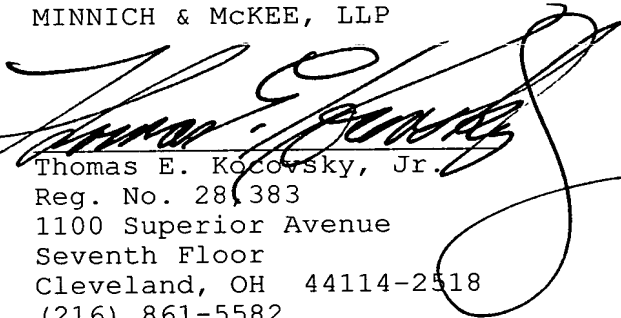
Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, FORM PTO-1449 AND REFERENCE** in connection with U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/047,317 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21st day of May, 2003.

By: Hilary McNulty



Subst. Form PTO-1449		Atty. Dkt No.: MEDZ 2 01221US		Serial No.: 10/047,317	
APPLICANT'S(S') INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		Applicant(s): McVEY, et al.			
		Filing Date: 01/14/2002		Group: 1743	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Initial *		Document No.	Date	Name	Filing Date
	AA				
	AB				
	AC				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation ?
	AD	EPO 336 047	10/11/89	Europe	Abstract
	AE				
	AF				
	AG				
	AH				
	AI				
OTHER ART					TC 1700
	AJ				
	AK				
Examiner:					Date Considered:
* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.					

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify this **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, FORM PTO-1449, AND 1 REFERENCE** in connection with U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/047,317 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21st day of May, 2003.

By: Wilary McNulty